Double taxation of airline tickets

3774. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a letter from the Travel Agents Association of India regarding double taxation of airlines tickets bought through travel agents;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the action Government is comtemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Travel Agents Association of India *vide* letter dated 12.03.07 had suggested amendment in the definition of taxable service namely "air travel agents service" [section 65(105)(1) of the Finance Act, 1994] so as to levy service tax only on the amount of commission paid by the airline to the travel agents. Service tax is leviable for the services provided by an air travel agent in relation to booking of passage for travel by air on the amount of commission.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above, does not arise.

Exemption of CVD on imported HTST machinery

3775. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for exemption of Counter Vailing Duty (CVD) and waiver of export obligation on High-Temperature/Short Time machinery imported through a French firm M/s. GEC, Alsthom in 1996 by Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Federation;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The High-Temperature/Short Time machinery imported by M/s. Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Ltd. (APDDCF) under the EPCG Scheme has been extended the benefit of exemption from additional duty of customs in terms of notification No. 29/97-Cus. dated 1.4.1997. M/s APDDCF is, however, liable to pay customs duty of Rs. 6,88,48,775/- together with applicable interest on account of non-fulfillment of export obligation (EO) under the said Scheme. M/s. APDDCF Ltd. has approached the Director General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for extention of the EO period.

Receipt of remittances in India

3776. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to World Bank's migration and Remittances Fact Book (2008) India received $27 billion in remittances from abroad in 2007;

(b) if so, what is India's rank amongst 10 top remittance-recipient countries during the year 2007 in US $ billion indicating migrants money received in the country in comparison to the year 2006; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the World Bank's Migration and Remittance Fact Book (2008) India received US $ 27 billion in remittances from abroad in 2007.

(b) and (c) According to the World Bank's Migration and Remittance Fact Book (2008), India was ranked as the top remittance receiving country in the world in 2007. India received US $ 27 billion in remittance from abroad in 2007. Data for top 10 remittance recipent countries is given below:

Top ten remittance receiving countries

Country	Amount (US $ billion)	Rank
India	27.0	1
China	25.7	2
Mexico	25.0	3
Philippines	17.0	4
France	12.5	5
Spain	8.9	6
Belgium	7.2	7
Germany	7.0	8
U.K.	7.0	9
Romania	6.8	10

SOURCE: Migration and Remittances Fact Book (2008), World Bank.

On a calender year basis, according to the Reserve Bank of India's balance of payments data, private transfer (i.e. workers' remittances) inflows were at US $ 37.5 billion in 2007 as compared with US $ 27.6 billion in 2006.

Involvement of ADB in internal affairs of Government

3777. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is involved and invited application on behalf of Government for Income Tax and financial experts to strengthen the Public Private Partnership cells being set up in five Central Ministries; and

(b) if so, the reasons behind allowing an outside agency ADB to involve in the internal affairs of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Government of India, with Technical Assistance Programme from Asian Development Bank is facilitating capacity building for Public Private Partnerships in five central infrastrcuture Ministries by providing each Ministry with two full time consultants, namely PPP Expert and MIS Expert for a period of 36 months. The